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**Issues & Proposed Solutions Given by Youth Attending  
*The Eugene Johnson Project: A Reality Check on Youth Homelessness in  
Boston***



**Education:**

1. What are the Education issues effecting homeless youth living on their own?
  - Residency issues and receiving a no cost diploma (you need housing to go to school)
  - Disabled youth support (emotional, physical, disabled)
  - Mental/emotional health – nourishment and advocacy
2. What are short-term possible Education solutions (within one year)
  - Transportation (MBTA) passes for students 24x7
  - More guidance counselor, mentors, and life coaches
  - Internship program a requirement/option in high school
3. What are long-term possible Education solutions?
  - All Boston colleges (public and private) should contribute to the public school system since they don't pay land taxes
  - More tutoring involvement
  - Emotional and mental health resources

**Jobs:**

1. What are the Job issues effecting homeless youth living on their own?
  - Subway performance permits are hard to obtain – require 2 forms of id and a \$25 application fee)
  - Don't have “experience” for the job but how do we get experience if we can't get a job?
  - Judged by our appearance

## **Jobs: (Continued)**

2. What are short-term possible Job solutions (within one year)
  - Increase paid job training programs for people to get experience and help the community while looking for employment (positive outlets for creative energy while job seeking) including jobs that combine education, education credit, and education help (increase number of opportunities) / Set up volunteer corps
  - Provide more public service job opportunities
  - Provide opportunities that give hands-on experience like cleaning parks, maintenance, etc.
  
3. What are long-term possible job solutions?
  - Increase paid job training programs for people to get experience and help the community while looking for employment (positive outlets for creative energy while job seeking) including jobs that combine education, education credit, and education help (increase number of opportunities) / Set up volunteer corps
  - Increase housing opportunities (directly related to keeping a long term job)
  - Continue CORI reform efforts

## **Housing:**

1. What are the Housing issues effecting homeless youth living on their own?
  - Lack of affordable housing with support
  - No housing if CORI present (shelters kick you out, offer no help to find a place to stay)
  - Different housing opportunities outside of the City
  
2. What are short term possible Housing solutions (within one year)
  - Allow a tent city for homeless youth in designated areas
  - Train staff for better mediation (CPS) ...intervention before escalation
  - More affordable housing
  
3. What are long-term possible Housing solutions?
  - Allow tent cities in the City
  - More shelters
  - Take houses in foreclosure and give them to homeless young people

## Health & Safety

1. What are the Health & Safety issues effecting homeless youth living on their own?
  - Hard to find primary care – health care access for the uninsured
  - Inadequate beds and access (even if open beds)
  - Insensitive shelter staff – discrimination, rudeness, bar people, perverts
2. What are short-term possible health and safety solutions (within one year)
  - Police training-how to interact with drug/mental health issues
  - Medical outreach
  - 24 hour Bathroom access system
3. What are long-term possible health and safety solutions?
  - Money for mental and physical health care with outreach for the uninsured
  - Shelter staff should have mental health expertise
  - Build open public restroom facilities using keycard pass system (i.e. Hubway) at City Hall, BPL (i.e. SF self-cleaning facilities)